Avera 1

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

14

AFFERSEN, MAMIE 5 WF

AVARA, LUCUS KNOX

Death Records of Jackson Co, MS
Born 15 Jan 1865 in Meridian, Miss., died 9 May 1936. Buried Machpelah Cem. Baptist. Night watchman.

Point and Pascagoula ... will close Monday ... ance of Memorial Day. ... rangements were made to ... ostmasters Leonard Rob- ... l Arthur Smith.

... said the windows will ... in Pascagoula and there ... no delivery service. ... ng and outgoing mail ... andled within the office,

... ms schedule will be of- ... n Moss Point, Robinson

... ers of ... The pres- entation ... Carey, followed by ... Richards ... nie Clark.

Steve Bosarge gave the class prophecy, Nancy ... the class motto. Following another chorus selection, the class colors, flowers and gratitude were given by Tommy Stiglets, Patsy Farragut and Ann Mulvey.

Msgr. Geoffrey O'Connell gave the main address. Msgr. Carey presented awards and citations to each of the 22 students.

Paul Sumedinger gave the valedictory.

... of ... is ... the ... of Moss Point. It is placed on the river front on the point of land facing the old office building of Dantzler Lumber Company.

About an acre of land surrounding the marker has been landscaped by the club, which organization also purchased the marker and supervised its erection.

Officials of the club have been notified that the state has awarded a standard type marker to be placed on the highway. Dr. Bettersworth, State College, department of archives and history, will confer with club officials about placement of the highway marker.

... processing ... chemical and other ... by the Gulf fishing industry.

A service building would be constructed adjacent to the city wharf.

... Mrs. ... Mrs. ... (two sons ... and N. R. ...

Seven ... von, ... Taylor, all ... and Edwin ... grandchildren of ... Mrs. Brax... and Mrs. ... and three ...

... Appointed
...eation Head

... director of the Pascagoula recreation department is ... Seay.

... assistant coach at the ...ool, will handle the department through July, when he ... back to the school.

...or Frank S. Canty, said ... recreation commission, ...gned.

McNeal Qualifies
...heriff Campaign

...R. McNeal of Pascagoula ...alified with the circuit ... a candidate for sheriff. ...al's formal announcement ...ll be published next week.

Club Council
Show, Dinner

... a report on the better ...our by Mrs. Jack Fletcher ... Sunday services by Ida ...y, assistant HD agent.

...il Defense school scheduled June 21-23 at 4H Camp was announced and HD ... urged to participate.

...ee Allen, home agent, ...demonstration on making ...s. The educational topic, ...ippi and It's Flags," was ...d by Mesdames Hinton ... Frank Davis and Ray...allette.

...evotional was given and ...reation program led by ...ou, host club. Lunch was ...o 45 members and guests.

Krebs Is Candidate For Former Position

Joe V. Krebs will be a candidate for supervisor from Beat Three, he said today.

Krebs formerly served in that post for four years. His formal announcement will be found on page four, section one.

Nine Sentenced To Penitentiary By Judge Grant

Nine men drew prison terms this week in circuit court before judge Leslie Grant.

Sentenced to five years in the penitentiary was Eddie McDaniel, found guilty of assault with intent to commit rape.

A three-year sentence for attempted rape was meted Joseph Mayfield. Two years on the same charge was given Robert Earl Jones. A two-year sentence was given William Fulford on a grand larceny charge, while Joe Bangs and Wallace Bangs drew the same sentence for uttering forgery.

Raymond Arthur, charged with false pretenses, was sentenced to 18 months. One year sentences were given Walter Lee and George Johnson for burglary and grand larceny.

About 160 civil and 40 criminal cases remained on the docket as court neared the end of its second week.

No part of the ocean is known to be lifeless.

Rites On Sunday For Mrs. Avera

Mrs. William A. Avera, 74, died Saturday at her residence, 210 Welch, Moss Point, after an illness of 10 months.

A native of Grand Rapids, Mich., she had been a resident of Moss Point since 1931. She was a member of First Methodist Church.

Survivors are her husband; four daughters, Mrs. F. C. Clark, Mobile, Mrs. Edwin Lee, Helena, and Mesdames Gregory Wood and M. A. Colmer, Jr., both of Moss Point.

Four sons, Ross A. Avera, Baltimore, J. W. Avera, Gulfport, William J., Baton Rouge, and Edwin Avera, Moss Point; 20 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday from Fails with Dr. Marion L. Smith officiating. Interment was in Griffin Cemetery.

Pall bearers were Carl Griffin, George Clark, Ed Mays, Dewey Broadus, Alton Thomson and Carl McLeod.

One nursing organization estimates that the United States needs 50,000 more nurses.

Mrs. Mayson, 76, Stricken At Home

Mrs. Helen McLeod Mayson, 76, died suddenly Monday at her residence, 210 Bellview, Moss Point.

She had been in ill health, but her death was unexpected. She was alone at the time and is believed to have died from a heart attack.

A native of Macon, she has been a resident of Moss Point since 1943 when she came to live with her sister, the late Mrs. Stone D. McInnis.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Carl Hansen of Goodman; a brother, A. T. McLeod, Port Arthur, Tex.; two step-daughters, Louise Mayson and Mrs. Janice Longino, both of Jackson.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday from her residence with the Rev. Walter L. Bader officiating, assisted by the Rev. T. Barton West of Bay Springs. Interment was in Griffin Cemetery.

Pall bearers were Gordon Hasé, Duncan McDonald, Albert Broussard, Gregory Wood, S. A. McInnis, Jr., and Albert Graham.

Deadline June 2 On Qualifications

Deadline for candidates to qualify in the August 2 Democratic primary has been shoved up one day to June 2.

Circuit Clerk Vertis Ramsay said the Pascagoula courthouse will be closed June 3. His office will be open until 5 p.m. June 2 to accept qualifying papers of county candidates, he added.

G. B. Ho...
Reelect...

George B... for re-electi... Beat Three... Hague ... year term. ... ment is on ...

MOSS PO... auxiliary ... prior to ... left to ri... the Moss ... auxiliary ... post.

Friday May 27 1955

died May 21, 1955

Avera 2

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY GENEALOGY COLLECTION

AVARA

Avera B
PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GRYDER

Mr. William Conneil Gryder, III, 71, died Sat., Sept. 18, 1999 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Mr. Gryder was born June 28, 1928 in Biloxi and was a life long resident of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

He attended Biloxi schools and Gulf Coast Military Academy. Mr. Gryder was an alumni of Western Kentucky University. After leaving Kentucky, Mr. Gryder returned home to join his father's family business, Gryder's Shoes. Through his leadership, Mr. Gryder expanded the business from 2 local shoe stores to a well-known chain of stores throughout Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. In 1978, he was chosen as "Retailer of the Year" by the National Footwear Association. Mr. Gryder leaves a legacy of 75 years of family service to the Gulf Coast Business Community.

Mr. Gryder was a devoted Presbyterian and served in the respected position of "Deacon" in both the Biloxi and Ocean Springs Presbyterian Churches. He was one of the original organizers of the Metropolitan National Bank and served as a Board Member to Biloxi Regional Hospital. In addition, he was appointed by Governor Bill Waller to act as one of his "colonel's" for the State of Mississippi. Mr. Gryder was also a member of Magnolia Masonic Lodge, Gulf Coast Carnival Association and he was a member of The Order of Mithras. He served a total of four years in the Navy, in both an active duty and reserve capacity.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William C. Gryder, Jr. and Annie Jewel Brown Gryder; and a brother, Robert L. Gryder.

Mr. Gryder is survived by his wife, Elaine Avara Gryder; a daughter, Belinda Gryder Guice and son-in-law, Jeffrey S. Guice; a son, William C. Gryder IV, and daughter-in-law, Micha Vickery Gryder; five grandchildren, Heath Gryder Allen, Lincoln Nowell Allen, Alexis d'Laine Allen, Garlyn Micha Gryder and William C. Gryder V. He is also survived by two sisters, Ann Gryder Anderson and Darlene Gryder Pitalo.

A service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 21, 1999, at The First Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs, where friends may call two hours before the service. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions be made in the name of Mr. Gryder to: A.L.S. (Lou Gerigs) Association National Office, 21021 Ventura Blvd., Suite 321, Woodland Hills, California 91364.

Arrangements by Howard Avenue Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes, Biloxi

Avera 4

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The State of Mississippi 2 Know all men
Wayne County 3 by these presents
that we Hardy R. Avera and Caroline
Avera his wife, of the County and State
aforesaid of the first part and Simeon
Brewer of the Same County and State
of the second part.

Witnesseth that for and
in Consideration of the Sum of Two
Hundred Dollars, of good and lawf-
ful money of the United States of America
to us in hand paid, by the party of
the second part at and before the
sealing of these presents. We the party of
the first part do hereby give grant
bargain sell and release unto the party
of the second part, all our right title
interest and Claim to the One sixth
part of the following described Lands
lying and being in the County and State
aforesaid, and which we inherited as heirs
of John McLeod Deceased. Which land
is more particularly known and designa-
ted as follows to wit. All of Fractional
Section Twelve (12) Township six (6) of Range
six (6) Containing Five Hundred &
thirty four Acres more or less, to have
and to hold the Same together with the
appurtenances thereunto belonging or
in any wise appertaining, free from
the Claim or Claims of any person
whomsoever Claiming through us.

In testimony whereof we
have hereto set our hands

Avera 5

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and affixed our seals this
30th day of December
AD 1854.

H. R. Avera Seal
Caroline Avera Seal

The State of Mississippi }
Wayne County } Be it this the 14th
day of August AD 1855. Personally
came before me M L Moody an Acting
Justice of the Peace in & for said County
Hardy R Avera - whose genuine signature
appears to the foregoing deed and acknow-
ledged, that he signed sealed and
delivered the same for the purposes
therein contained - Also appeared
Caroline Avera, wife of the said Hardy
R Avera who on a private examina-
tion separate and apart from her said
Husband acknowledged that she relinqu-
ished all her rights of Dower to said tract
of land, freely - and without any
fear threat or compulsion of her
said Husband

Given under my hand
and seal the day and
date above

M L Moody Seal
Justice Peace

Avera 6

The State of Mississippi } Know all men
Wayne County } by these presents
that we Henry R. Avera and Caroline
Avera his wife, of the County and State
aforesaid, of the first part, and Simeon
Brown of the same County and State
of the second part.

Witnesseth that for and
in consideration of the sum of Two
Hundred Dollars, of good and lawf-
ul money of the United States of Ame-
rica to us in hand paid, by the party of
the second part at and before the
sealing of these presents, the party of
the first part do hereby give, grant,
bargain, sell, and release unto the party
of the second part, all our right title
interest and claim to the one fifth
part of the following described lands
lying and being in the County and State
aforesaid, and which we inherited as heirs
of Silas McLeod deceased, which land
is more particularly known and design-
ated as follows to wit. All of fractional
Section Twelve (12) Township six (6) of Range
six (6) containing Four Hundred
thirty four Acres more or less, to have
and to hold the same together with the
appurtenances thereunto belonging or
in any wise appertaining, free from
the claim or claims of any

Averra 7

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and affixed our seals this
30th day of December
AD 1854.

H. R. Averra (Seal)
Caroline Averra (Seal)

The State of Mississippi }
Wayne County } Be it this the 14th
day of August AD 1855. Personally
came before me M. L. Moody an acting
Justice of the Peace in & for said County
Hardy R. Averra whose genuine signature
appears to the foregoing deed and acknow
ledged, that he signed sealed and
delivered the same for the purposes
therein contained. Also appeared
before me Averra wife of the said Hardy
R. Averra who on a private examina
tion separate and apart from her said
Husband acknowledged that she relinqu
ished all her rights of Dower to said tract
of land, freely and without any
fear threat or compulsion of her
said Husband

Given under my hand
and seal the day and
date above

M. L. Moody (Seal)
Justice Peace

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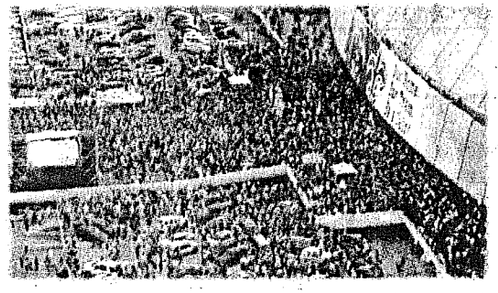
LOCAL, 4-A

GEORGE COUNTY PLANS FLOOD ORDINANCE HEARING



SPORTS, 1-B

Fans celebrate Saints' return to Superdome

The Saints back in the Superdome — it's good to see things getting back to normal after dadburn Katrina!

Serving Pascagoula, Ocean Springs, Moss Point, Gautier and Lucedale

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William Travis "Pete" Avara Jr.

'Mr. Pete' Avara dies after life of dedication

By BRAD CROCKER
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — "You need anything, you give me a call," was the phrase Pascagoula Mayor Matthew Avara recalled his father, William Travis "Pete" Avara Jr., telling people for many years.

Known by many as "Mr. Pete," or "Capt. Pete," W.T. Avara Jr., a longtime business, civic and school leader, died Monday morning. He was 79.

Born in Pascagoula in 1926, Avara entered World War II in high school, serving in the U.S. Army in the Philippines and Japan before returning home to attend the University of Southern Mississippi.

After a short stint at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Avara went to work for the Ingalls Employee Credit Union in 1956, now Navigator Credit Union, and was the only president and chief executive officer for the credit union.

"The greatest thing that ever happened to him was the day they hired him to run the credit union," his wife of 51 years, Elva, said Monday as the family reflected on his life. "He looked forward to every morning and he never wanted to leave there."

Son, Laurin Avara, who worked alongside his father at the credit union, said it was ironic he died on a Monday. "Unlike the rest of us, that was his favorite day. He got to go back to work."

Mayor Avara recalled when he was 10 or 11 and helped his father get shipyard workers their money when they carried two sacks full of cash by family boat to the west bank when the old U.S. 90 drawbridge was stuck.

"That was his commitment, that the people who need the money get the money," Avara said.

In 50 years, Avara never missed a board of directors meeting. In fact, directors held the last one Avara attended at his home. After Hurricane Katrina, Laurin Avara said his father sat with his oxygen machine and personally handed out cash to the long lines that formed.

Local business and civic leader Jerry St. Pé said Avara was one of the first people he met when he moved to Mississippi 48 years ago, and rented a room from Avara's aunt.

St. Pé, a longtime president of Ingalls Shipbuilding, said he witnessed Avara's kindness to the working class for years.

"He treated everybody the same," St. Pé said. "He was a truly unique individual in so many respects. Those of us who knew him were blessed by his association, and he was a model for how to treat others and

See AVARA, Page 12-A

Man charged for comments about Gautier

Making waves

OS mayor, aldermen

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Avara

From Page 1-A

influenced so many of us. He's gong to be missed on so many fronts."

Pete Avara's father, Travis, was the Pascagoula Fire Chief for 21 years. Elva Avara said when Pete was a small boy, he would run to the station and jump onboard with his father, and sometimes drive, even at the age of 11. Pete was angry one time, she said, when another man beat him to the station.

"He could run fast, too, now," she said, wiping a small tear.

The Avaras started dating when she was 18, playing piano at the dining room at the Longfellow House in 1953. He was 27, much older, but her father approved Pete Avara as the only person who could give her a ride home.

"I thought he was just as cute as he could be," Elva Avara said.

There is differing opinions whether she "scratched gravel" to get in his car, as he claimed early in their courtship, or if she calmly walked like she contends.

"That was a good time in my life," Elva Avara said.

Avara also served on the Pascagoula School Board for 15 years during the tumultuous times when the local schools were integrated.

"There are those who say Pascagoula was integrated on the Avara plan. I've never seen any details but he was always committed to equality," Laurin Avara said.

"He never saw black or white. He saw need and necessity," Matthew Avara added.

Sara Maghan, who served for more than 40 years in the school district as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent, said Avara was a good person who thought of others.

"It was always evident in the decisions that he made that he really wanted the best this community could offer to the students in the school district," Maghan said. "He had a reputation for being very firm about the decisions he made, but he was always willing to listen to people's opinions before he made that decision."

Always known for helping families during hard times, Avara would meet and invite many of those people to the family's home on Spanish Avenue in northwest Pascagoula.

And many of those meetings would take place on the family houseboat, "Tabby," which he built in 1963.

"That began a labor of love that would last all his life," Laurin Avara said.

Governors, congressman and other dignitaries also frequented the home and "Tabby," but Matthew Avara said "Daddy thought more of the hardworking men and women of the shipyard" because he could identify with them more.

A child of the Great Depression, Avara was "a very compassionate, understanding person that realized the hardships that many people have," said Laurin Avara, adding that his father tried to get to know everyone.

One hour before he died, Pete Avara was introducing his nurses and telling Laurin Avara about their families.

"That's just who he was," Matthew Avara said.

Reporter Brad Crocker can be reached at bcrocker@themississippipress.com or (228) 934-1431.

10-24-52
Avera 10
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r husband, who
cago.

4H meeting was
the home of
. Hurd at Forts
Hurd, president,

ted at birth, but
ade with age.

C. A. Avara Kin Enjoy Reunion

All members of the C. A. Avara family were present at a reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Avara Sunday, with the exception of a few grandchildren.

C. A. Avara, who is confined to his bed, was unable to be present at the picnic dinner served on the lawn, but as he lives next door his family were able to visit with him during the day.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Avara, Mrs. John Brady, Gulfport, and daughter, Mrs. Norman Durocher, Pontiac, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bogdahn, Mrs. W. T. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Seal, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Seal, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Schillereff, Pete Avara, Mr. and Mrs. Conneil Gryder, Biloxi, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Avara, Pascagoula, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ogle and children, J. W. Jr., Louis, Travis and Alice Lorraine, New Orleans.

ur
ANNIVERSAR
ARTS TOMORROW, THURSDAY, 9 A. M. —— YOU WILL F
IN THE LADIES' AND TOTS-N-TEENS DEPARTMENT ——

NEW FALL SHADES!
600 PAIR
FULL FASHIONED
SHEER DANBY
NYLONS

ONLY
77c
PAIR

193 Women's Fall
DRESSES
$4 - $7
Values to $14.95

- Corduroy
- Rayon crepes
- Rayon Ottoman failles
- Rayon taffetas

New Fall fashions including velvet trims and slim or flared skirts, short in black and vivid autumn colors. Sizes 12 to 20.

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TISER 2-7-1947

Mrs. Avara Dies In New Orleans After Operation

Mrs. Alice Parsley Avara, native of Pascagoula, died early Wednesday morning at the Touro Infirmary in New Orleans following an operation. Mrs. Avara, the widow of L. K. Avara, had made her home in the Louisiana city with her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Ogle, for the past few years.

Her body was brought back to Pascagoula where funeral services were held at her former home, now occupied by a son, C. A. Vvara, at Willow street and Lake avenue, Thursday afternoon. Dr. L. E. Green, pastor of the First Baptist church of Pascagoula of which she had been an active member for many years, conducted the services and interment was in Machpelah cemetery. Fail's Funeral Home of Pascagoua was in charge.

She is survived by two sons, C. A. and Travis Avara, both of Pascagoula; five daughters, Mesdames J. R. Brady of Gulfport, J. W. Ogle of New Orleans and Ruby Wade, Margaret Harris and Percy Seal of Pascagoula; three brothers, George and Charles Parsley of Pascagoula, and Walter Parsley of Pensacola, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. S. A. McInnis of Moss Point; 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The first official census of the

OGLE

AVARA

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Former Pascagoulan Killed In Attempt To Arrest Suspect

M. H. Ogle, who was well known in Pascagoula where he resided with his grandmother, Mrs. Estelle Lutenbacher during most of his junior and senior high school years, was slain in Shreveport last week when he attempted to arrest a Negro wanted for the shooting of another Negro. Ogle was serving as a patrolman on the Shreveport police force at the time. papers lastA

Mr. Ogle and his brother, John W. (Jack) Ogle resided with their grandmother at 604 Spring street for a number of years during their youth and had made many friends here.

According to the Shreveport papers Ogle was slain as he entered the front door of the Negro's residence to make the arrest. He was hit by a blast from both barrels of a 12-gauge shotgun, but despite the wounds fired four shots at the Negro, striking him twice. The Negro was killed shortly afterward by a fellow patrolman of Ogle.

Funeral services were held last week for Mr. Ogle, who was 32 years old. He is survived by a wife and four children.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB TO MEET

9-9-1947

The monthly meeting of the Arts and Crafts club for September will be held at the cen-

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years of service with Pete Avara Day

ees when he was hired as a manager-trainee for their credit union.

"I felt so strong about helping people. I still do. The desire to help people and the joy I receive from doing it has intensified over the past 40 years," Avara said.

When he took the job in 1956, the Ingalls credit union was in a small office inside the shipyard. There were three employees and assets of less than $1 million. The credit union's assets today total more than $85 million and it has more than 60 employees, in four branch locations.

Today's credit union industry and the world economy are so different than they were back then, Avara says.

"People are better educated and they demand more services. The world has been made smaller by worldwide computerization and a money market that affects American citizens as soon as things happen on it anywhere in the world," Avara said.

"Then there is a move under way to promote a unified currency, at least in the European states, and an economic coalition among European nations."

A Pascagoula native, Avara returned home to Mississippi after serving in World War II. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi and went to work for Ingalls.

Staff Photo/R. Kelly Boyd

HUSBAND, WIFE AND PET — W.T. "Pete" Avara Jr. — president and CEO of Ingalls Employee Credit Union — is shown with his wife, Elva, and their favorite dog.

11-17-96

Local lender honored for 40

By TOM DONNELLY
Mississippi Press Staff

PASCAGOULA — W. T. "Pete" Avara Jr. destroyed the popular myth that all lenders are scrooges when he became manager of the Ingalls Employees Credit Union in 1956.

If he had done no more than that in the past 40 years, his friends and competitors say Pete Avara Day would still be on the community's agenda for this Tuesday at 11 a.m. The event will be held in the credit union's central office on Litton Road in Pascagoula.

"He has always tried to look for ways he could assist people with their financial problems rather than looking for ways he could not assist them," said Royce Luke, president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Jackson County campus, who has known Avara for more than 30 years.

"He never had a personal agenda. He did what he felt was right," Luke added.

"He had the welfare of the student body at heart. He understood finance. He also looked out for the people who paid the bills. He wanted us to have enough but he didn't want anything wasted."

Avara was a member of the Pascagoula School Board when Luke was the district's assistant superintendent in the 1960s.

The Board of Directors of Ingalls Employees Credit Union is recognizing Avara's 40 years as president/CEO of the financial organization.

Avara has also helped in chartering other credit unions over the past four decades.

"I have helped organize a number of credit unions over the Mississippi Coast," Avara, 70, said. "But that's not nearly as strange as it may sound on the surface. You have to know our industry to understand it.

"They were not competitors. None of them could join Ingalls Employees Credit Union and we could not join their credit unions.

"There is something akin to a family spirit among credit unions. It is a wonderful industry. It has giving people working in it. I am so grateful to be a part of it."

Recent groundbreaking ceremonies on Miss. 63 by Ingalls Employees Credit Union and Singing River Federal Credit Union for construction of two new and ultra-modern branch offices in Moss Point illustrates what Avara said about the closeness of companies in the industry.

Born during the Great Depression, Avara knew all about financial pressure from an early age.

Avara also knew it is not uncommon that loans to Ingalls workers decided whether their children went to college or went to the work force.

Avara began reaching out to help Ingalls employ-

Avera 14

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SEAL

Viola A. Seal, 94, of Pascagoula, Miss. died Thursday, November 12, 1998 in Vancleave, Miss. She was born November 29, 1903 in Pascagoula, Miss. She was a homemaker and member of First Baptist Church of Pascagoula, Miss.

Survivors include daughter Betty S. Schillereff of Pascagoula, Miss; daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy S. and Harry Rummage of Pascagoula, Miss.; son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Norma Seal of Pascagoula, Miss.; sister, Annie Ogla of Covington, La.; eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services are Sunday, November 15, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. from Holder-Wells Funeral Home Chapel in Moss Point, Miss. with the Rev. Dennis Ray Smith officiating.

Burial services will follow in Machpelah Cemetery, Pascagoula, Miss.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

Antiques preserve a way of life

MRS. AVARA SITE AT BREAKFRONT WHICH HOLDS ORIGINAL LIMOGE CHINA AND RARE pressed glass compote in sawtooth pattern. (Chronicle photo)

W. T. Avara home a scene of beauty of long long ago

By MARY RODGERS
Chronicle Woman's Editor

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever"—that pretty well summarizes the feeling of Mrs. W. T. Avara of Lake Avenue in Pascagoula.

An extremely artistic, creative person, Mrs. Avara is the owner of many beautiful things. Antique furniture, silver, glass and china number just a few of her treasured possessions.

Some of these have been handed down in Mrs. Avara's family, others have been gifts from friends who know of her interest in them. Still others she has collected herself.

Always a student of history, Mrs. Avara is particularly interested in ante bellum homes and their furnishings. "No matter where I go I always look for antique sources, especially those on the back roads."

Her favorites are her original oil lamps, which her husband has wired for her. They work together on the various articles in her collection, having refinished all of the furniture she has bought.

Her collection of early American blown glass pitchers is a special project and fills one entire corner of her dining room.

Long active in the Lake Garden Club, Mrs. Avara has lectured at many garden club meetings on the Coast, following a busy schedule throughout the year. She was for three years flower chairman of the Singing River Hospital Auxiliary.

Church work at the First Baptist Church of Pascagoula, where she has been a member for 40 years, fills a large part of her life.

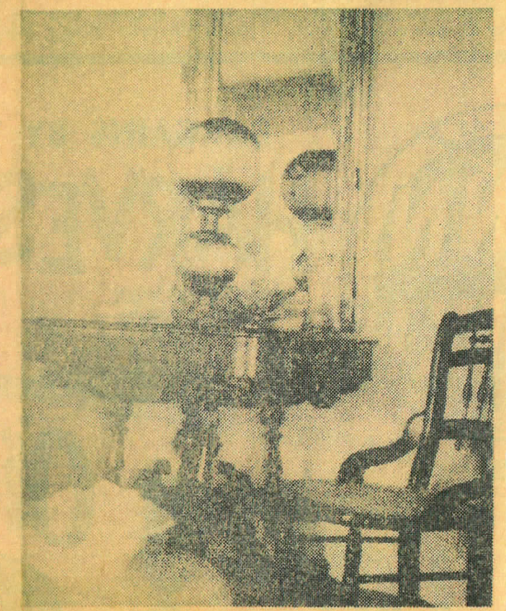
Active in WMU, superintendent of the young people's department for many years and a Sunday school teacher at the present time, Mrs. Avara says, "My church work always comes first."

It's fitting that the Avara home should be the setting for so many beautiful pieces, since it is situated in a historic spot.

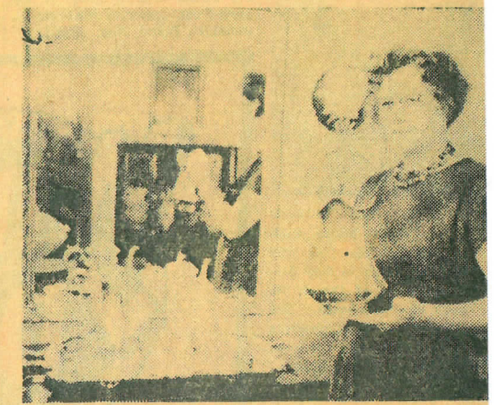
On the banks of the Singing River near the Old Spanish Fort, it was the site of a cotton gin years before Eli Whitney patented his.

Mrs. Avara is the former Berdie Mae Fleming, born in Picayune. She once taught school at Orange Lake and is the mother of Mrs. Elaine Gryder and W. T. Avara Jr.

Speaking of her collection of valuable antiques Mrs. Avara says, "We've had a wonderful way of life and I'd like to preserve as much of it as I can." From the looks of things that is just what she is doing—and very graciously.



COMPLETELY AUTHENTIC SETTING DISPLAYING ONE OF original oil lamps in Mrs. Avara's collection. (Chronicle photo)



MRS. AVARA EXAMINES PRIZED SILVER. (Chronicle photo)

Pas members of Altrusa Club attend meeting

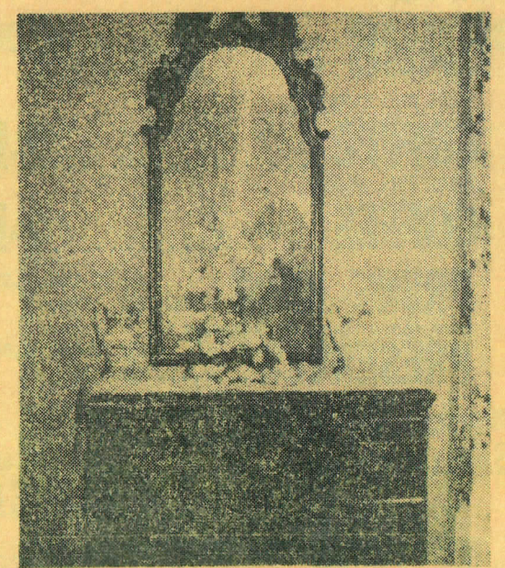
Mrs. Bess Todd Vetter and Mrs. Reginald Green, president and vice president of Pascagoula Altrusa Club, attended the eighth annual conference of Altrusa International district IV, Oct. 19, in Baton Rouge.

Highlight of the meeting, attended by more than 200 executive and professional women from Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi, was the address by Dr. Viva Boothe of Columbus, Ohio.

She is past president of the international organization, composed of women in eight countries.

Friday's program featured two international projects, grants-in-aid and founders fund. Mrs. Green took part by portraying a native of Kerala, India.

Mrs. Lois Toomer, governor of district IV, presided at the banquet Saturday evening at which Mrs. Vetter gave the resolutions.



ANTIQUE FRENCH MIRROR GRACES WALL

In Paspoint

People . . . Places . . . Parties . . . Plans . . .